

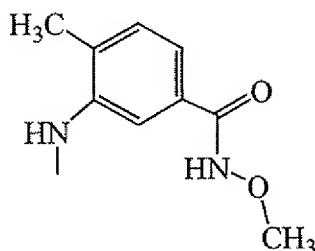
REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are pending. Claims 3 and 4 are newly cancelled. Claims 7-11 have previously been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to severely limit formula (I) to compounds of interest and the target disease areas of special interest; psoriasis has been re-added from original Claim 1. The articles listed in Attachment A are offered for the Examiner's consideration in this regard as noted below. Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been amended to delete the solvate and prodrug language and to add more precise wording. Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to conform to revised Claim 1. Claim 6 has been amended to add clarifying language linking formula I to formulae I(a) and I(b). No new matter has been added by any of these amendments.

Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested since it will put the case in a form more suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 as now amended is also respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-6 under 35 USC §103(a) on the basis of HUNT. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been amended to recite the $-Z(R_4)(R_5)$ group as



HUNT does not exemplify compounds with the current definition of the $-Z(R_4)(R_5)$ group and especially does not describe the ortho methyl group as presently claimed. In addition, HUNT does not disclose or discuss any particular compounds with p38 activity. In fact, HUNT's compounds target tyrosine kinases not p38 kinases. The compounds of the present invention have activity for p38 and may be seen as different from HUNT. While there was previously arguably some overlap in possible groups as between the

instant invention and HUNT, the instant invention as presently claimed may be seen as a narrow group of compounds that have the p38 activity. In particular and for example, the values of R^4 and R^5 in HUNT are defined to be selected from the same group. For the instant invention, R^4 and R^5 , as originally defined, are two completely different groups with no overlap in definitions and may never be the same. The even more limited definition of $-Z(R_4)(R_5)$ in the present form of the claims goes even further in that direction. Finally, tests (p38 alpha – IC_{50} μ M as well as TNFa_PBMc – IC_{50} μ M) for at least 5 compounds from the instant invention (Examples 70, 97, 111, 114 and 119) show good activity for p38. HUNT focuses on tyrosine kinases – not p38 kinases and, in fact, Example 70 from the present invention was tested and did not show meaningful activity against tyrosine kinases as described in HUNT.

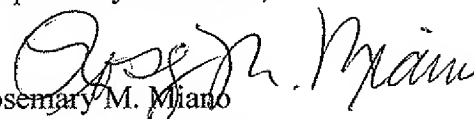
Additionally, the references listed in Attachment A describe the utility of the p38 inhibitors and these references and are offered to address the Examiner's concerns in this area.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, it is believed that the case is now in a condition for allowance and early Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested. Since the entry of this Amendment would put the claims in a form more suitable for allowance, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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